GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3192
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Master Plan for Conservation of Water Resources
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a master plan for conservation of water resources, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government proposes to establish a mechanism to prevent the pollution of water resources, if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce any projects for protection of drinking water resources, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the action taken/to be taken to ensure smooth water resources conservation, especially protection of drinking water sources/resources in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has prepared a conceptual document titled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" - 2013 to augment the ground water resources. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in urban and rural areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 79,178 Crores to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purpose. Master Plan has been circulated to the State/UT Governments for its implementation and also placed in public domain on the website Central Ground Water Board. National Water Mission has initiated action to prepare State Specific Action Plans (SSAP) for water sector in respect of all the States/UTs which will present status of water resources development and management, water governance, institutional arrangements, water related policies, cross-boundary issues etc.

(b) Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards including Pollution Control Committees have been established under the Water Act, 1974 and have been empowered for taking effective action under the Water Act, 1974, Water & Cess Act, 1977 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change along with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation have constituted Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) w.e.f. 29th may, 2001 under the Environment (Protection)Act, 1986 to direct the concerned agencies for taking effective measures so as to mitigate the contamination of surface and ground water. The Authority exercises powers under section 5 to Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) & (d) Though rural drinking water is a state subject, the ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation assists the State Governments technically and financially through centrally sponsored scheme namely National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). 10% of the allocation under NRDWP is to be used exclusively to achieve drinking water security by adopting conjunctive use of surface water, rain water and ground water and construction of water recharging structures to ensure sustainability with major emphasis on water quality affected areas, overexploited, critical and semi-critical areas as specified by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and any other area that the State Government has identified as water stressed area.

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